CLAIM OR CLAIMS

1. A universal hand guard for a hacksaw having a handle, a frame and a blade, said hand guard comprising:

a semi-rigid flat shield formed of resilient non-metallic material having a height generally equal to that of the frame or handle and having a width at least as great as a projected frontal width of a user's hand when grasped around the handle in using the hacksaw;

said shield having a notch extending downwardly through a central portion of said shield from an upper margin thereof, said notch having a width and length sufficient to be fitted around and receive support from an upper portion of the frame at a point in proximity to and forward of the handle;

said shield also having a mounting aperture positioned below said notch and spaced above a lower margin of said shield and being sized to fit over and receive support from a threaded end of an elongated rear blade tensioning support held within a lower corner of the frame;

said shield also supported along the upright central portion against a rear upright portion of the frame which extends between said notch and said mounting aperture;

said shield having sufficient resiliency for a portion thereof to be protectively deflected around a corresponding portion of the hand upon impact against an object during use of the hacksaw.

2. A universal hand guard as set forth in Claim 1, wherein:

said resilient material is sheet elastomer.

3. A universal hand guard as set forth in Claim 2, wherein:

said elastomer is neoprene.

4. A universal hand guard as set forth in Claim 2, wherein:

said resilient material has a thickness in the range of about 1/8".

5. A universal hand guard as set forth in Claim 4, wherein:

said shield has a width and a height of about 5".

6. A universal hand guard as set forth in Claim 2, wherein:

said shield is generally rectangular and has a thickness of about 1/8" and a width and a height of about 5".

7. A universal hand guard as set forth in Claim 3, wherein:

said neoprene has a durometer reading of in the range of about 60.

8. A universal hand guard for a hacksaw having a handle, a frame and a blade, said hand guard comprising:

a resilient flat shield having a height generally equal to that of the frame or handle and having a width at least as great as a projected frontal width of a user's hand when grasped around the handle in using the hacksaw;

said shield having an elongated vertical notch extending downwardly along a central axis of said shield from an upper margin thereof, said notch having a width and length sufficient to be fitted around and receive

support from an upper portion of the rear of the frame at a point in proximity to and forward of the handle;

said shield also having a mounting aperture positioned below said notch and positioned on said central axis and spaced above a lower margin of said shield, said mounting aperture being sized to fit over and receive support from a threaded end of an elongated rear blade tensioning support held within a lower corner of the frame by a threaded nut;

said shield also positioned along the central axis thereof against a rear upright portion of the frame which extends between said notch and said mounting aperture;

said shield having sufficient resiliency for a portion thereof to be protectively deflected around a corresponding portion of the hand upon impact against an object during a forward cutting stroke of the hacksaw.

9. A universal hand guard as set forth in Claim 8, wherein:

said resilient material is sheet elastomer.

10. A universal hand guard as set forth in Claim 9, wherein:

said elastomer is neoprene.

11. A universal hand guard as set forth in Claim 9, wherein:

said resilient material has a thickness in the range of about 1/8".

12. A universal hand guard as set forth in Claim 11, wherein:

said shield has a width and a height of about 5".

13. A universal hand guard as set forth in Claim 9, wherein:

said shield is generally rectangular and has a thickness of about 1/8" and a width and a height of about 5".

14. A universal hand guard as set forth in Claim 10, wherein:

said neoprene has a durometer reading of in the range of about 60.

15. A resilient universal hand guard for protecting the hand of the user of a hacksaw having a handle, a frame and a blade, said hand guard comprising:

a flexible flat generally rectangular shield formed of resilient material having a height generally equal to that of the frame or handle and having a width at least as great as a projected frontal width of a user's hand when grasped around the handle during hacksaw use;

said shield having an elongated notch extending downwardly through a central portion of said shield from an upper margin thereof, said notch having a width and length sufficient to be fitted around and receive support from an upper portion of the rear of the frame at a point in proximity to and forward of the handle;

said shield also having a mounting aperture positioned directly below said notch and spaced above a lower margin of said shield and being sized to fit over and receive support from a threaded end of an elongated rear blade tensioning support held within a lower corner of the frame;

said shield extending vertically along the upright central portion thereof against a rear upright portion of the frame which extends between said notch and said mounting aperture;

said shield being held in operative position with respect to the frame only by the resilient fit of said notch around the frame and a threaded nut engaged over the rear blade tensioning member against a portion of said shield surrounding said mounting aperture;

said shield having sufficient resiliency for a portion thereof to be protectively deflected around a corresponding portion of the hand upon impact against an object during use of the hacksaw.